Paramount - Working to bring educational opportunities and resources to the City of Paramount, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) secured 0,000 in the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill to fund two Paramount Educational Partnership (PEP) Community Resource Centers. On January 31st, Sánchez attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the first facility.

"Today we are opening the first ever community learning resource center in the City of Paramount. This facility will equip our young people with the tools and resources they need to graduate from high school and make the most of their opportunities in life. Educating our youth and increasing the high school graduation rate in this city is the best investment we can make," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Specifically, the center will offer new after-school programming such as tutoring, mentoring, and remedial classes to increase reading and mathematics skills and to ensure students have a good foundation for future learning. Additionally, parenting classes will be available for adults. Computer based learning tools will be available for individual use, including Internet access.

"In the age of technology, children and young adults need access to computers and the Internet. Access at home can become costly to individual families. The community resource center will provide equal access to the Internet for both children and adults in a safe and comfortable learning environment," explained Sánchez.

In addition to Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, featured speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony included Paramount City Mayor Gene Daniels, President of the Paramount Unified School District, Sonya Cuellar and Chairman of the Gateway Cities Partnership, Richard Proudfit.

"The education of our children is one of my top priorities. I will continue to work hard in Congress to pursue new opportunities and sources for educational funding," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The Paramount Educational Partnership is an enrichment program developed by the City of Paramount, the Gateway Cities Partnership, the Paramount Chamber of Commerce and the Paramount Unified School District. The next ribbon cutting ceremony for the second facility is schedule to take place at the end of February or the beginning of March.